

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

The action by the Examiner in this application, together with the cited references, has been given careful consideration. Following such consideration, claim 3 remains unchanged, claim 4 has been added, and claims 1 and 2 have been amended to define more clearly the patentable invention the Applicant believes is disclosed herein. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the claims in their present form, together with the following comments, and allow the application.

As the Examiner well knows, the present invention is generally directed to a work glove having a layer of latex adhered to the surface thereof. The work glove is intended for use mainly in rigorous, outdoor working conditions. Conventional gloves of this type tend to wear out and break down at the crotch portion of the glove i.e., between the thumb and the forefinger. The present invention provides a reinforced work glove that has a longer lifetime than conventional work gloves of this type.

The claimed work glove includes a fiber-made base glove, a first reinforcement coat, and a second reinforcement coat. The first reinforcement coat is formed on the surface of the base glove and covers only a portion of the surface that extends along sides of and towards tips of a thumb and a forefinger through a center of a crotch between the thumb and forefinger. The first reinforcement coat is compound rubber latex. The second reinforcement coat is also compound rubber latex and covers the surface of the base glove except for the back of the base glove. The second reinforcement coat covers the portion of the surface covered by the first reinforcement coat. According to the present invention, only the crotch portion of the glove and the sides of the

thumb and forefinger are double coated. Accordingly, the glove of the present invention is selectively reinforced in the areas that tend to wear out and break down while having pliable fingers.

It is submitted that none of the cited references teaches, suggests, or shows a work glove as presently set forth in the claims, or the advantages thereof.

In response to the Examiner's rejections, claims 1 and 2 have been amended. Claim 1 has been amended to indicate that the portion of the surface of the work glove covered by the first reinforcement coat extends *only* along the sides of and towards the tips of a thumb and a forefinger through a center of a crotch between the thumb and forefinger. Claim 2 has been amended to indicate that the first reinforcement coat extends "approximately 3cm in a widthwise direction." New claim 4 has been added and is directed to a method for forming the glove of the present invention.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,060,961 to Tillotson. The Tillotson reference discloses a fabric glove that is coated with a rubber coating. The rubber coating may include more than one layer. The rubber coating of the Tillotson reference covers the thumb, the palm, and portions of all four fingers of the glove. The Tillotson reference does not teach a glove that is double coated only in selected areas. In this respect, a glove made according to the Tillotson reference would either have one layer of coating and no reinforcement in the crotch area or two layers of coating such that the fingers would not be pliable.

The Tillotson reference does not teach, suggest, or show a work glove having a first reinforcement coat that covers "only a portion of the surface that extends along the sides of and

towards the tips of a thumb and a forefinger through a center of a crotch between the thumb and forefinger."

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,371,988 to Berend in view of the Tillotson reference. The Berend reference discloses a fabric glove having two polymeric layers applied to the exterior thereof. An inner layer covers the five fingers of the glove, the palm of the glove, the wrist of the glove, and the back of the glove. An outer layer covers the five fingers of the glove and the palm of the glove. A glove made according to the Berend reference would have stiff, double coated fingers.

Neither the Berend reference nor the Tillotson reference teaches, suggests, or shows a work glove having a first reinforcement coat that covers "only" a portion of the glove that extends along the sides of and towards the tips of a thumb and a forefinger through a center of a crotch between the thumb and forefinger. Further, neither reference discloses a work glove having a second reinforcement coat that covers the first reinforcement coat and portions of all four fingers.

According to both the Tillotson reference and the Berend reference all five fingers of a glove are coated twice by latex or a plastic material. Therefore, the gloves disclosed in the Tillotson reference and the Berend reference lack pliability. In contrast, according to the present invention, only the crotch area (i.e., the area between the tip of the thumb and the tip of the forefinger) of the base glove is coated twice by rubber latex. The fingers of the glove are coated only once. Thus, the fingers of the glove of the present invention are more pliable than the fingers of the gloves disclosed in the Tillotson reference and the Berend reference. Another

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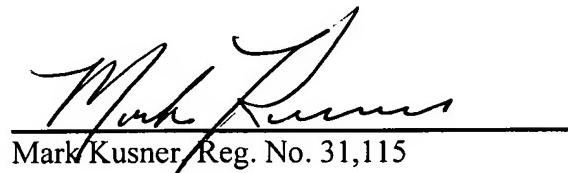
advantage of the present invention is that the first reinforcement coat is coated by the second reinforcement coat and therefore is less likely to come off.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon has also been reviewed. It is respectfully submitted that none of these additional references teaches, suggests, or shows the Applicant's invention as defined by the present claims.

In view of the foregoing it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes there are any further matters which need to be discussed in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0537, referencing our Docket No. MM8857US.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Kusner, Reg. No. 31,115

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KUSNER & JAFFE
Highland Place – Suite 310
6151 Wilson Mills Road
Highland Heights, Ohio 44143
(440) 684-1090 (phone)
(440) 684-1095 (fax)



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I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referenced as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on the below date with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: February 23, 2006


Laura K. Cahill